UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: April 27, 1964

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD, AKA
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA -CUBA

SYNOPSIS:

Leo Sauvage, a 51-year-old French correspondent for a socialist newspaper and reported employee of the French Communist Party in 1956, wrote critical and ostensibly objective article entitled "The Oswald Affair" which appeared in the March, 1964, issue of "Commentary", a publication of the American Jewish Committee. This article is similar to other articles being written by foreign authors having a background of communist sympathies. It is based on speculation, unfounded material and half-truths. Sauvage tries to discredit many of the facts indicating Oswald is guilty and also implies the true facts will never be brought out because of the influence of the FBI and other police agencies.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is not felt we have the responsibility of furnishing the Commission with every piece of inaccurate, speculative commentary on the assassination. If you approve, the President's Commission will not be furnished a copy of this article as the magazine containing the article is readily available in the United States. A copy will be furnished to Dallas for its information.

LEO SAUVAGE

Leo Sauvage was born 2/23/13 in Nancy, France, and was reported to be a correspondent and chief of the New York Bureau of "Le Populaire," French socialist newspaper. (40-0-3796)

105-82555

ENCLOSURE

- Mr. C. D. DeLoach
- Mr. R. E. Wick
- Mr. W. C. Sullivan
- Mr. I. W. Conrad
- Mr. R. E. Lenihan

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"Commentary" describes Sauvage as an author and New York correspondent for "Le Figaro," Paris for nearly 15 years.

In 1951 information was developed that Sauvage was a member of a small group close to Louis Dolivet who was refused re-entry to the United States due to Dolivet's suspected communist and comintern background. (100-23792-148)

On 9/27/56 a confidential source abroad advised the name of Leo Sauvage appeared on a list of individuals employed by the French Communist Party. (64-200-231-1559)

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

This organization has been described as being founded in 1906 and incorporated in 1911. The fundamental purpose of this organization is said to be to safeguard the civil and religious rights of Jewish people throughout the world and to combat discrimination and prejudice. In 1946 it was described as being pro-Palestine with its ultimate aim being to secure a "real homeland" in Palestine. The committee has been critized by the communist "Daily Worker" in the past for its anticommunist assertions. Some individuals connected with the committee have had communist affiliations. (62-102104-8)

"COMMENTARY"

"Commentary," a monthly magazine published by the American Jewish Committee, states it aims to meet the need for a journal of "significant thought and opinion on Jewish affairs and contemporary issues." It will be "hospitable to diverse points of view and belief" and it hopes to encourage "original creative endeavor." The editor maintains the opinions and views expressed therein are the authors own and do not necessarily express "Commentary's" viewpoint or position.

DETAILS:

Sauvage prefaces his "objective" article with several observations which serve to set the tone of the article which is to follow. He first of all stresses that all the evidence against Oswald was "leaked" to the various news media and he accuses the FBI as one of the principals in leaking this information. Sauvage then states as the Dallas authorities convicted Oswald by "press and television" the FBI has "forced" the hand of the President's Commission by leaking the results of our investigation and in this manner assuring that the Commission will return a verdict of guilty for Oswald.

Sauvage proceeds in a systematic manner to review the alleged evidence against Oswald from the assassination on. He quotes freely the published statements of individuals such as Dallas County District Attorney Henry Wade, Chief Jesse Curry and Captain Will Fritz of the Dallas Police Department, and then endeavors to show that the early erroneous statements made by them were really intended to deceive and cover up the true facts. Sauvage imputes to impulsive publicity-seeking statements intrigue and conspiracy. In order to lend credence to some of his theories Sauvage goes as far as to attribute public statement to SAC Gordon Shanklin of Dallas regarding the assassination. Of course these statements are completely untrue.

Some of the alleged facts which Sauvage highlights as showing Oswald could not be the assassin are as follows:

1. That it was physically impossible for Oswald to have traveled from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository Building and escape without anybody seeing him.

2. That because of the lack of security around the building immediately after the assassination anybody could have entered or left the building without being seen.

3. Sauvage claims the assassination rifle would not lend itself to three accurate shots and that Lee Harvey Oswald did not have the talent or the experience to fire the rifle as accurately as alleged.

4. Sauvage also quotes various statements from doctors at Parkland Memorial Hospital who afforded the President emergency treatment, that the President had been shot from the front. This, of course, is completely erroneous and has been checked out numerous times. This is a favorite of the communist press.

5. Sauvage also claims four shots were fired not three and he is skeptical of the findings of the FBI Laboratory that the three bullets fired were from the assassination rifle.

6. He suggests clues leading to Oswald's arrest were planted well in advance of the assassination and suggests a conspiracy.

7. He raises doubts concerning the murder of Officer J. D. Tippit by Oswald suggesting the facts as known are completely false.

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RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

In order to show "objectivity" Sauvage agrees with the facts as known to date that Oswald and Ruby did not conspire together. In fact, Sauvage goes so far as to say that any such idea is "rather childish."

Sauvage's attempt to appear as a humble modest reporter merely inquiring into the facts falls short and it is quite obvious that his intents and purposes for writing this article are to create embarrassment for the U. S. Government and to cloud the true facts relating to Oswald's guilt as well as to elicit support from sympathetic groups.